

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/CS/SB 1314

SPONSOR: Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, Education Committee and Senator Wise

SUBJECT: Children's Summer Nutrition Act

DATE: March 11, 2002      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>deMarsh-Mathues</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	<u>Bryant</u>	<u>Hickam</u>	<u>AED</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

The bill creates the Children’s Summer Nutrition Act. School district initiatives involving the federal Summer Food Service Program are to be reported to the Department of Education and the Legislature.

This bill creates an unspecified section of the Florida Statutes.

The effective date is July 1, 2002.

**II. Present Situation:**

The federally funded Summer Food Service Program for Children is operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program is administered by the Florida Department of Education and provides meals during the summer for children 18 and under living in low income areas. Programs are approved for geographical areas of need where 50 percent or more of the children qualify for free and reduced price meals during the school year. The program is often offered in conjunction with summer enrichment activities or recreation programs. Program sponsors can be schools, private non-profit organizations, local governments, or camps. Sponsors are reimbursed for operating and administrative costs by the U.S. Department of Agriculture with funds distributed through the Department of Education.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nearly 14 million low-income children do not have access to summer meals, even though they depend on free and reduced price meals and snacks served at school during most of the year. Only about 2 million children receive the free meals provided by the Summer Food Service Program during the summer months. In Florida, 1,098,140 children received free or reduced lunches in the fall of 2001, according to the Florida

Department of Education. The department notes that three counties (Volusia, Dixie, and DeSoto) received federal waivers of paperwork and administrative requirements to operate the summer food program. The department indicated that the following counties do not participate in the program: Baker, Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Holmes, Jefferson, Lafayette, Liberty, and Union.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill creates, the Children's Summer Nutrition Act, which requires each school district superintendent to report to the Department of Education any activity or initiative that provides access to a food service program during school vacation periods to children who are eligible for reduced-price meals. The report shall include any developed or implemented plans for how the school district will sponsor, host, or vend the federal Summer Food Service Program. The superintendent shall submit the report to the school board and to the Department of Education by February 1, 2003. A compilation report shall be submitted by the Department of Education to the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, chairs of the education committees and State Board of Education, by March 1, 2003.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

The Summer Food Service Program generally provides up to two meals or a meal and a snack for children up to age 18 who live in low-income areas. Under the bill, potentially, children will realize nutritional benefit and their families may experience budget relief by having some of their children's meals provided through the program

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The federal government reimburses approved sponsors based on the number of meals served and the documented operating and administrative costs associated with the Summer Food Service Program. No additional state match is required for these Federal funds.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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